

FELLOWSHIP

BOX 271, NYACK, NEW YORK

PEACE
INFORMATION
EDITION

August Is International Pacifist-Get-Together Month

Two extraordinary events bring peace-workers from around the world to the USA during the third and fourth weeks of August—from August 20 to 23 the International Fellowship of Reconciliation will hold its first council meeting in the United States in Nyack, N.Y. and on August 25 to 31 the War Resisters International will hold its first triennial convention in the states in Haverford, Penna. On August 23 on Saturday afternoon in Nyack, members and friends of both groups will meet jointly. At Haverford College, the greater part of the WRI program will be devoted to the theme of liberation and nonviolent revolution in honor of the 100th anniversary of the birth of Gandhi.

From India, Japan, Africa, South America and many of the countries of Europe, official delegates to the IFOR will assemble in the FOR's national headquarters "Shadowcliff" in Nyack. About 30 delegates are expected with perhaps as many observers from North America in attendance at some sessions.

Peace Forces Intensifying Drive to End War in Vietnam

An "escalated autumn offensive" against the war in Vietnam is being planned by a new and larger configuration of peace forces, of which the following are component parts:

August 17 — Action centering around a mass march to the summer white house in Southern California

October 12-15 — Action supporting the victims of the Chicago repressions of a year ago, when the trial of the "conspirators" opens. An October 15 nationwide moratorium on "business as usual" is to protest the war—details later.

November 15 — Mass march on the White House with a rally nearby. Many plans in connection with this are being worked out, under the joint guidance of Ron Young and Abe Bloom. Ron is being released for a month from the FOR national staff to work on this.

More in the September issue.

One of the primary steps to be taken will be to confirm decisions made at a special meeting of the council in Oslo a year ago at which it was voted to broaden the theological basis of membership in the international which had been heretofore confined to those who accepted an orthodox and conventional Christian basis.

Another vital matter will be election of a new general secretary to replace Erwin Rennart who resigned a year ago. Peter Eterman of the Netherlands has been acting general secretary. Other staff and officers will also be elected by the group.

A third important action scheduled for discussion will be a new international program as proposed by a special committee headed by Alfred Hassler. It envisions a series of moves toward a genuine world community as outlined in a number of papers.

National and staff reports, possible changes in structure of the IFOR and various committee meetings will take up the balance of the four-day sessions.

ABM Scored by Catholic Groups; Resolutions Sent to Senators

Resolutions opposing the Anti-Ballistic Missile System (ABM) have been sent to every U.S. Senator by officials of two Catholic organizations: Pax and the National Association of Laymen.

The resolutions expressed "the moral revulsion" which is growing in the Catholic community against the ABM system. The statements condemned the "development and deployment" of the missiles and cited a similar statement by the National Conference of Catholic Bishops in the pastoral letter entitled "Human Life in Our Day."

"There is certainly a moral dimension to the question of huge and open-ended costs of the ABM," the Pax letter said, "in the face of the poverty and exploding needs of the cities."

"There is a moral dimension," it added, "to escalating the arms race when experts question the workability of the ABM and point out that its only actual effect might be to provoke the disaster it is supposed to prevent."

President Seeks to Purge CIA Workers who Aided ABM Foes

Momentous decisions such as nuclear test ban treaties and congressional votes on anti-ballistic missiles have an annoying habit of not wishing to wait for deadlines such as Fellowship's Peace Information Edition.

Whether or not the Senate rose to the occasion and turned back President Nixon in his stubborn desire to give Secretary Laird and the Pentagon another big boost along the A-bomb race with Russia, the full story of the methods used to force a decision his way still remains to be spelled out.

The editors of a powerful and reliable little newsheet "Hard Times" came through with a real shocker in part of the inside story of White House activity in those last feverish weeks before the vote came.

It seems clear now that Laird's biggest argument for the deployment of ABM was a "first strike" scare sedulously manufactured by his office and the military brass contrary to an authoritative report by the US Intelligence Board that the USSR had no such capability or even plans according to their best estimate. According to "Hard Times" editors, Henry Kissinger, the president's assistant for national security, David Packard, assistant secretary of defense and Secretary Laird were all aghast at the intelligence report. But President Nixon was angry. Moreover, he decided that all who delivered such "unapproved" opinions to CIA Director Richard Helms would have to be purged. He ordered that names of all employees who had worked on the forbidden paper as well as any individuals who were even "aware" of it, be turned over to the agency's security section, presumably for investigation by the FBI.

These are baffling times! When the CIA becomes an ally (even if an unwitting one) of the peacenik in his search for truth, what does this say about the goals and methods of a military-loving administration trying to preserve a posture of balance?

QUOTE/UNQUOTE

"I shall ask for the abolition of the punishment of death until I have the infallibility of human judgment demonstrated to me."

—THOMAS JEFFERSON

Draft Violators Increasing in Number Throughout U.S.

Draft violation is reportedly the third ranking "crime" in the United States according to the latest figures available this year. Out of 37.5 million men registered with Selective Service, about 1 in 1600 was considered delinquent.

According to a testimony by a former draft board clerk from two San Jose, Cal., draft boards, two thousand men turned in their draft cards to those boards alone in 1968. The former clerk who testified at a trial of one of the men, said that out of those 2,000, only 200 have been declared delinquent and processed for induction. He also stated that only those politically active and known to the board were singled out for these actions.

Some 50,000 young Americans have reportedly chosen to live in Canada, Sweden, and elsewhere rather than be drafted, according to a recent report in the *Chicago Times*. Also, 1,000 draft resisters are now in prison, and another 1,000 have deserted and live in exile.

Thant Urges Halt on Germ Weapons

UN Secretary General U Thant has called on all governments to agree to halt development and stockpiling of chemical and biological agents for warfare "and achieve their effective elimination from the arsenal of weapons."

Thant appealed again to governments to sign the 1925 Geneva Protocol banishing these "dreaded weapons." He also asked that they clearly reaffirm that the protocol prohibits the use in war of all chemical or biological agents—including tear gas and other weapons that might be developed.

The United States and Japan are the only major powers that have not ratified the protocol, accepted by more than sixty governments.

Thant made his statement on the basis of a report from an international panel of fourteen scientists. The report said that the potential for developing such weapons had grown considerably and warned there was no secure defense against them even for the richest countries.

PAMPHLET REPORT PUBLISHED

Imprisonment and Torture in South Vietnam, the searing document on the state of the Thieu government's totalitarian arrest, imprisonment, court and torture system by Pham Tam, (see Lit Notes) has been released to the press. Since the Fellowship does not have a clipping service, it would be immensely helpful if you, our readers, could send us any comment that appears in the local press.

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Deadly Germs Shipped on Commercial Carriers

The U.S. Army, which is already under investigation for its shipment of poisonous chemical warfare agents across the nation, has now been charged with shipping highly dangerous biological agents for the past four years.

First hint of the shipments came to light during Senate Commerce Subcommittee hearings headed by Senator Vance Hartke (D-Ind.) recently. Information about military biological agents has been kept secret since the end of World War II, including information on how such goods have been shipped from base to base or from country to country.

According to army regulations issued in 1965, it explicitly states that as much as three gallons of a lethal biological agent carefully packaged, can be shipped at one time on a commercial carrier without any military escort of any type.

At least three of the warfare agents in the army's stockpiles are extremely infectious, particularly anthrax, one of the scourges of the middle ages, which is capable of killing up to 99 percent of its victims. The other two are tularemia and Q fever.

Senate Committee Proposes Halt in CB Weapons; Cuts Budget

The Senate Armed Services Committee, in response to Congressional criticism of the military, has proposed a halt in development of chemical and biological warfare weapons. Accordingly, the committee cut about \$2-billion from the \$22-billion requested by the Pentagon for procurement of weapons and military research and development.

The effect of the committee action, if sustained by Congress, would be to stop development of new chemical and biological agents as well as the means of delivering them. Left intact by the committee were Pentagon programs to develop defenses against chemical and biological warfare. Defensive measures involve such things as gas masks, antidotes and the like.

Significantly, the cut was recommended by a conservative committee that has been a defender of military programs.

Study Team Report

Report of the U.S. Study Team on Religious and Political Freedom in Vietnam is available in three formats: 1) a Congressional Record reprint, with an introduction by Senator Ribicoff, 8 pages, small type, 15¢ a copy; 2) A 16-page version in larger more readable type with the addition of relevant Congressional comment, 50¢ a copy; 3) FOR pamphlet, 37 pages, regular typewriter type, 50¢ a copy.



Unless otherwise indicated, all literature is available from Fellowship Publications, Box 271, Nyack, N. Y.

Imprisonment and Torture in South Vietnam tells the brutal story of the scores of thousands of men and women civilians now in South Vietnamese prisons, charged with "political offenses." Price: 50¢. Quantity prices on request.

Nonviolent Action—How it Works by George Lakey is again back in print. This is a brief, cogent analysis of nonviolence and its practical use in the affairs of men. 55¢.

"Those committed to the cause of equality must cease to be attached to the romantic idealization of violence . . ." says Mulford Sibley in *Revolution and Violence*. The pamphlet is available at 25¢ a copy.

World Religions and World Peace edited by Homer Jack is a detailed report of the program and accomplishments of the International Inter-Religious Symposium on Peace which was held in New Delhi in 1968. Paper: \$1.95.

"Thou Shalt Not Poison" by Sydney D. Rubbo, M.D. discusses the current U.S. use of chemical agents in Vietnam. Reprinted from the March, 1969 *FELLOWSHIP*, it is available at 10¢ a copy.

The violent confrontation of demonstrators and police in Chicago during the week of the Democratic National Convention is realistically described in *Rights in Conflict*. Contains 200 photographs. Paper: \$1.00.

The Presbyterian Peace Fellowship has a new pamphlet *Presbyterians for Peace* which describes the FPF position, areas of FPF involvement, etc. Write for a copy to: Shirley Maynard, FOR, Box 271, Nyack, N.Y.

Civil Disobedience: Theory and Practice edited by Hugo Adam Bedau provides a critical perspective on the "politics of creative disorder." Essays by Martin Luther King, Milton Mayer, A. J. Muste, Paul Goodman and others. Paper: \$1.95.

Reading lists and valuable reprints on the related questions of conscription and amnesty are being made available by a new "Communication Group on Conscription and Amnesty." Send \$1.00 for the latest collection to Alfred E. Kuenzli, coordinator, 512 North Main Street, Edwardsville, Illinois 692025. Also, the FOR order form on materials on the draft and conscientious objection has just been revised.

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ACLU Initiates Countrywide Challenge to Draft Law

The American Civil Liberties Union has announced a head-on challenge of the present draft law, contesting that the Selective Service Act itself is unconstitutional. Accordingly, it is pressing the challenge through forty-seven state affiliates in the U.S., several hundred chapters and nearly a thousand staff and volunteer attorneys throughout the nation. In addition to court tests, the Union will work toward elimination of the draft by Congress and increase its educational efforts in this area.

John de J. Pemberton Jr., ACLU Executive Director, in stating the organization's position, said:

"Military conscription is a severe infringement of individual liberties, at best the resort of a nation facing imminent threat. It must rest upon the interests of national security, what James Madison called, 'the impulse of self-preservation.'

"We believe that government has the duty to prove to the public that so drastic a step as conscription is required today. No such showing has been made."

Judge Rules Capitol Grounds "On Limits" to Peaceful Demonstrators

Federal Judge Harold H. Greene has ruled that the Capitol grounds "may not be declared off limits" to peaceful demonstrators.

The ruling came as a breakthrough for a group of thirty-four peace demonstrators who have been attempting to read the names of Vietnam war dead on the East Front steps of the U.S. Capitol, and who have been arrested or harassed for doing it.

During a recent four-hour vigil by the group, at least six U.S. Congressmen attended, if for brief periods: James Scheuer (D.-N.Y.), George Brown (D.-Cal.), Edward Koch (D.-N.Y.), William Clay (D.-Mo.), Abner Mikva (D.-Ill.) and Adam Clayton Powell (D.-N.Y.).

The readings take place every Wednesday at the Capitol, and are sponsored by A Quaker Action Group and the Episcopal Peace Fellowship.

COMING IN SEPTEMBER

A special student issue devoted to the meaning of the rebellion on campus and the crisis in education and society. Articles by Staughton Lynd, Douglas Dowd, William Birenbaum, Robert Gussner, Gerald Pedersen, Charles Lawrence and many more. Another large issue. Special editor, this issue: Ronald J. Young. Place your quantity order now.



BALLET AT ROCKEFELLER CENTER?

Maggi Geddes is not participating in a Mardi Gras but rather celebrating her own conscience with the aid of torn-up strips of draft board records for confetti in the latest attack upon Selective Service procedures. See account below. N.Y. Times from Bradford Lyttle.

Five women participated in the latest foray into draft board offices to make their records inoperable against young men facing military service. Last month, in an after-dark expedition into the building in Manhattan where 13 boards have their offices, the women pulled out and shredded 1-A files. They also destroyed a part of the cross reference system and, as a final touch, broke the "1" and the "A" keys of all typewriters.

Parts of the ripped-up files were carried to a rally at Rockefeller Center two days later when the five women identified themselves. However only four of the five were arrested, the fifth, Maggie Geddes, formerly on the staff of the Catholic Peace Fellowship, being inexplicably left at large, and free to address a meeting of the Voice of Women in Montreal before the arraignment of the others took place. But FBI agents, moving quickly during the rally, arrested two who said they had no connection with the planning or execution of the event: Barbara Webster, secretary to David Dellinger, anti-war leader, and Linda Forest, wife of James Forest the CPF executive, now serving a two-year sentence for draft file destruction in Milwaukee (see July FELLOWSHIP). These women were among a number who picked up the strewn-about fragments of papers and tossed them

lunch-hour strollers at the much-photographed entrance to the skating rink at Rockefeller Plaza.

In addition to Miss Geddes, the others were Jill Boskey, Pat Kennedy, Kathy Czarnik and Valentine Green. Mrs. Green is an employee of the national office of the FOR, secretary to Ron Young, director of Youth work. The six arrested were out on bail at the time this issue went to press. They were charged with illegal possession of government records "with intent to convert them to their own use." This is punishable by a maximum of ten years in prison and/or a \$10,000 fine. Some similar cases have drawn shorter prison terms.

One variant from most other draft board actions that the women's group practiced was to attempt communication in other ways. They mailed letters to many of the corporations in the Rockefeller center area to explain their deeds. Then they followed it up by leafleting at the office they had raided earlier and in the various areas covered by the 13 boards.

The Fellowship of Reconciliation neither recommends nor condemns specific actions of this kind. We welcome comment on the questions of tactics, strategy and commitment to nonviolence relating to them.

German Catholic Dioceses Establish CO Centers

Special consulting offices for conscientious objectors have been established by the Archdiocese of Freiburg and the Diocese of Augsburg in West Germany. Such consultation centers have been recommended for every diocese by the German Episcopal Conference.

The staffs of these centers include psychologists, lawyers, military officers, diocesan directors of the Catholic Youth Organization and priests who specialize in the problems of youth.

Dear Editors:

In your January issue you printed a fitting tribute to Norman Thomas, a very courageous man.

Your readers might like to know that friends of Norman Thomas have established a scholarship fund in his memory at Friends World College, Westbury, New York.

Norman Thomas was interested in the idea of a world college as a means toward world peace, and participated in seminars here with the students.

Because of his extended illness he was unable to continue his visits but the discussions will be long remembered.

Persons wishing to honor him in this way may send contributions to the scholarship fund; his family will be notified in a suitable manner.

MRS. LEAH KARPEN
Westbury, N. Y.

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CEASE FIRES, OTHER INITIATIVES URGED ON NIXON BY CHURCHMEN

President Nixon should "make clear that the United States will not continue to support any regime in South Vietnam that is not broadly representative and does not extend political liberties to its people," a group of 28 American leaders led by Arthur S. Flemming, president of the National Council of Churches, has said in an open letter to the President.

Citing "demands of the American public, the repression in South Vietnam, and the meagre progress in Paris," the letter urges additional steps "to press vigorously toward an early negotiated settlement of the Vietnam war."

Chief among these steps would be a "standstill ceasefire" simultaneously with an agreement to form an interim body representative of all political, religious and ethnic groups in South Vietnam, "and not merely the Government of the Republic of Vietnam and the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Vietnam." Among the signers are Andrew Cordier, president of Columbia University; William B. Arthur, editor of *Look*; former Ambassador to Japan Edwin O. Reischauer; Hans Morgenthau, Mrs. Martin Luther King and Congressmen Conyers, Cohelan and McCloskey.

The wording and composition of the letter make it clear it was in part inspired by activities of the U.S. Study Team the FOR sent to Vietnam.

From Congressmen on The Report of the U.S. Study Team on Religious and Political Freedom in Vietnam

"We are all indebted to the dedicated men and women involved with this project for the time and effort they have devoted to this endeavor. Everyone concerned with the present and future welfare and freedom of the people of South Vietnam should study this report closely."

—SENATOR ABRAHAM A. RIBICOFF
of Connecticut

"I commend this thoughtful and searching report to all members of Congress."

—CONGRESSMAN OGDEN R. REID
of New York

"I commend the members of the study team for their thorough and thoughtful report . . . the four individuals now in trouble with the Thieu government were among those talked to by the American study group."

—CONGRESSMAN ABNER J. MIKVA
of Illinois

"I found the report of the U.S. Study team illuminating as well as disturbing. I believe the team's diligence will stimulate our colleagues to study its report."

—CONGRESSMAN RICHARD D. MC CARTHY
of New York

QUOTE/UNQUOTE

What is the difference between throwing a baby onto a fire and throwing fire onto a baby? To my mind the only difference is about 25,000 feet.

—LORD DONALD E. SOPER
former president of the
Methodist Conference,
London

Information Needed: Violence in History Texts

Anyone who has ideas, suggestions, reference materials or anything else pertinent to the treatment given violence in American history textbooks (especially 5th, 8th and 11th grade texts), please write to: Lou Silverstein, 713 W. Barry, Chicago, Ill. 60657.

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Ron Young to Head Up Peace March in
Washington • Nixon Tries Purge to Stop AMB
ACLU Challenges Whole Draft Law • Women
Make a "Fete" with Draft Records

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